

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00541 091831Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

-----092249Z 113108 /70

R 091805Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3182

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 0541

FOR ASST SECRETARY-DESIGNATE TODMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, UY

SUBJ: URUGUAYAN NOTE ON SHOE PROBLEM

REF: MONTEVIDEO 0542

1. REFTEL SUMMARIZED DEMARCHE MADE TO US BY AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND APICUE (URUGUAYAN-AMERICAN TRADE PROMOTING ASSOCIATION) EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE ADVERSE IMPACT ON URUGUAY OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION ON SHOE IMPORTS, IF PUT INTO EFFECT. TODAY, FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA CALLED ME IN TO PRESENT A NOTE VERBAL OFFICIALLY OUTLINING THE GOU'S VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. IN HIS ACCOMPANYING REMARKS HE EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE ADVERSE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT WHICH THE US MEASURE, AS NOW FORESEEN, WOULD HAVE ON URUGUAY. HE APPEALED FOR OUR GOVERNMENT'S SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OF SOME MEANS WHEREBY WHAT APPEARS TO BE AN UNFAIRLY HARSH BURDEN ON URUGUAY WOULD BE ALLEVIATED. THE MINISTER TOLD ME THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO MAKE ITS NOTE PUBLIC THE AFTERNOON OF FEB. 10 IN VIEW OF THE INTENSE PUBLIC CONCERN ON THE MATTER.

2. I ASSURED THE MINISTER THAT THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMING THE DEPARTMENT FULLY ON URUGUAYAN CONCERN AND WAS ALSO PROVIDING UNCLASSIFIED

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TEXTS OF DEMARCHE MADE BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD ALSO RECEIVED INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES, WHO ARE SOON SCHEDULED TO VISIT WASHINGTON, AND WOULD RECOMMEND THAT WHEN IN WASHINGTON THEY BE GIVEN EVERY APPROPRIATE ACCESS TO CONCERNED OFFICIALS SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN.

3. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOU CAN TAKE AN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND
THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN TAKE ACTION WHICH WOULD AVOID, IN THE
PRESIDENT'S FINAL DETERMINATION, SO ADVERSE AN IMPACT ON URUGUAY AS IS

INTRINSIC IN THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS. A STRONG CASE IS
EASILY MADE THAT THE US MEASURE AS PROPOSED WOULD VIRTUALLY KILL A NEW

EXPORT INDUSTRY WHICH EMPLOYS ABOUT 9,000 PEOPLE AND WHOSE
PRODUCTION LAST YEAR WAS VALUED AT ABOUT 12 MILLION DOLLARS.
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS TO THIS SMALL COUNTRY WOULD
THUS BE SEVERE, AND THE IMPACT ON URUGUAY FAR MORE SEVERE
THAN ON OTHER SHOE EXPORTERS. THE GOU NOTE IS BEING
TRANSMITTED BY SEPTEL.

SIRACUSA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORT CONTROLS, SHOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MONTEV00541
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770046-1166
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770259/aaaabztt.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cbda18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MONTEVIDEO 542
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3366179
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: URUGUAYAN NOTE ON SHOE PROBLEM
TAGS: ETRD, UY, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cbda18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009